

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A speech recognition unit, comprising:

a plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries;

extracting means for extracting the contents of specific dictionaries as a list of queuing words;

storage means for temporarily storing the extracted list of queuing words;

recognition means for recognizing an input speech command by comparing the input speech command and the list of queuing words stored in the storage means; and ~~the speech recognition unit characterized by;~~

setting means for permitting a user to preset a narrowing-down condition, ~~and~~

wherein the extracting means extracts the contents of a dictionary at the highest level of the hierarchy, and the contents of a dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition preset by the user, as the list of queuing words from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries, when a recognition process starts, and

wherein the recognition means compares the input speech command to the contents of the dictionary at the highest level and to the contents of the dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition before comparing the input speech command to the contents of a dictionary at a level of the hierarchy that is below the highest level of the hierarchy.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The speech recognition unit according to claim 12, wherein the extracting means extracts from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries, the contents of a lower-order hierarchical dictionary of a dictionary used for recognition by the recognition means each time the recognition of the recognition means is performed, until a recognition result of the recognition means becomes an institutional name.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The speech recognition unit according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of speech recognition dictionaries comprises:

- a classification dictionary storing classification names of institutions; and
- an institution dictionary storing names of institutions which belong to respective classifications of institutions.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The speech recognition unit according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of speech recognition dictionaries comprises:

- an area dictionary storing area names; and
- an institution dictionary storing the names of institutions existing in respective areas.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A speech recognition method for a speech recognition unit having a plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries, the method comprising:

- ~~extracting the contents of specific dictionaries as a list of queuing words;~~
- ~~temporarily storing the extracted list of queuing words;~~

~~recognizing an input speech command by comparing the input speech command and the list of queuing words; and~~

permitting a user to preset a narrowing-down condition; ~~wherein~~

~~the extracting~~ extracts the contents of a dictionary at the highest level of the hierarchy, and the contents of a dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition preset by the user, ~~as the list of queuing words~~ from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries, when a recognition process starts; and

recognizing an input speech command by using the contents of the dictionary at the highest level and the contents of the dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition before using the contents of a dictionary at a level of the hierarchy that is below the highest level of the hierarchy.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A speech recognition unit, comprising:

a plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries;

~~an extractor for extracting the contents of specific dictionaries as a list of queuing words;~~

~~a storage for temporarily storing the extracted list of queuing words;~~

~~a recognizer for recognizing an input speech command by comparing the input speech command and the list of queuing words stored in the storage; and~~

a setting device ~~for permitting~~ which permits a user to preset a narrowing-down condition; [[,]]

~~wherein the~~ an extractor which extracts the contents of a dictionary at the highest level of the hierarchy, and the contents of a dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition

preset by the user, ~~as the list of queuing words~~ from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries, when a recognition process starts; and

a recognizer which recognizes an input speech command by using the contents of the dictionary at the highest level and the contents of the dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition before using the contents of a dictionary at a level of the hierarchy that is below the highest level of the hierarchy.

Claim 18 (New): The speech recognition unit according to claim 12, wherein the narrowing-down condition is a category.